

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 in a network, in each of a plurality of compute nodes, maintaining a local store of
 - 3 services, the local store of services including at least a service name, a service functionality
 - 4 and statistics defining a historical performance of the service on each compute node;
 - 5 receiving a request for a service from a client system; and
 - 6 compiling a list of compute nodes matching the service request, the list having service
 - 7 names ranked according to the service functionality and the statistics for each compute node.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 in which the statistics comprise a number representing times the
- 2 service has been instantiated.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 in which the statistics comprise a number representing, for each
- 2 instantiation of the service, how long the service was used until the service was destroyed.
- 1 The method of claim 1 in which the statistics comprise a number representing a service
- 2 response time.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 in which the statistics comprise a number representing an average
- 2 availability statistic.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 in which the statistics comprise a service version number.
- 2 7. The method of claim 1 in which the statistics comprise a cost for a service.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 in which the statistics comprise a number representing times the
- 2 service had errors.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1 in which the statistics comprise:
 - 2 a number representing times the service has been instantiated;
 - 3 a number representing, for each instantiation of the service, how long the service was
 - 4 used until the service was destroyed;
 - 5 a number representing a service response time;
 - 6 a number representing an average availability statistic;

7 a number representing times the service has errors; and
8 a service version number.

1 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying the list on the client system.

1 11. The method of claim 10 in which displaying comprises a graphical user interface (GUI).

1 12. The method of claim 1 in which the list is ranked according to a frequency of service
2 instantiation.

1 13. The method of claim 1 in which the list is ranked according to an average service
2 response time.

1 14. The method of claim 1 in which the list of ranked according to a frequency of error.

1 15. A computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, for service
2 searching, the computer program product being operable to cause data processing apparatus
3 to:

4 in a network, in each of a plurality of compute nodes, maintain a local store of
5 services, the local store of services including at least a service name, a service functionality
6 and statistics defining the historical performance of the service on each compute node;
7 receive a request for a service from a client system; and
8 compile a list of compute nodes matching the service request, the list having service
9 names ranked according to the statistics.

1 16. The product of claim 15 in which the statistics comprise:

2 a number representing times the service has been instantiated;
3 a number representing a service response time;
4 a number representing an average availability statistic; and
5 a service version number.

1 17. The product of claim 15 in which the list is ranked according to a frequency of service
2 instantiation.

1 18. The product of claim 15 in which the list is ranked according to an average service
2 response time.

1 19. The product of claim 15 in which the list is ranked according to cost.

1 20. A system comprising:

2 a client system residing in a network;

3 a plurality of compute nodes in the network, each one of the compute nodes
4 maintaining a local store of services, the local store of services including at least a service
5 name, a service functionality and statistics defining the historical performance of the service
6 on each compute node;

7 means for receiving a request for a service from a client system; and

8 means for compiling a list of compute nodes matching the service request, the list
9 having service names ranked according to the statistics.

1 21. The system of claim 20 in which the statistics comprises:

2 a number representing times the service has been instantiated;

3 a number representing a service response time;

4 a number representing an average availability statistic; and

5 a service version number.

1 22. The system of claim 20 in which the list is ranked according to a frequency of service
2 instantiation.

1 23. The system of claim 20 in which the list is ranked according to an average service
2 response time.

1 24. A method comprising:

2 generating a store of installed services in a computing device, the store including
3 service names, a service functionalities and statistics defining the historical performance of
4 the service on the computing device, the statistics comprising a number representing times
5 the service has been instantiated, a number representing a service response time, a number
6 representing an average availability statistic and a service version number; and

7 updating the statistics in response to a change in the number of service instantiations,
8 a change in service response time, a change in service availability or a change in the service
9 version number.

1 25. The method of claim 24 further comprising providing remote access to the store.

1 26. The method of claim 24 wherein the statistics further comprise a cost.